

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art of record fairly disclose or render obvious the claimed process for the recovery and separation of boron, in particular the arrangement of the five compartment electrochemical cell having the first and second diluting compartment, first and second anolyte compartments, catholyte compartment, wherein the first diluting compartment is filled with cation exchange material only and the second diluting compartment is filled with anion exchange material, or a mixture of anion and cation materials or layer of anion and cation materials.

The prior patent granted to Grant discloses a similar process, however, the apparatus employed differs significantly from the present cell. Furthermore, the electrode compartments are fed the same electrolyte (see figure 1).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arun S. Phasge whose telephone number is (571) 272-1345. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY, 7:30-6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam X. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Arun S. Phasge/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795

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